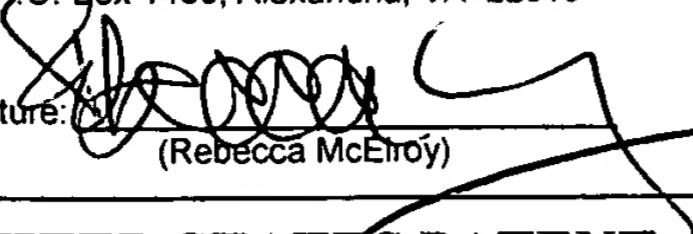


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 28, 2005

Signature:   
(Rebecca McElroy)

Docket No.: 577212000101  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Christopher J. STANLEY

Confirmation No.: 5588

Application No.: 09/760,819

Art Unit: 1634

Filed: January 17, 2001

Examiner: F. Lu

For: **USE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS BOUND TO  
CARRIER MACROMOLECULES**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to a final Office Action dated December 27, 2004, for which a response is due on March 28, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.